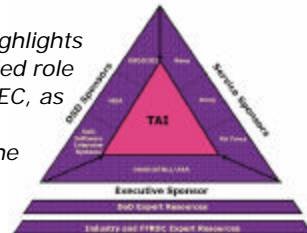# Tri-Service Assessment Initiative (TAI)
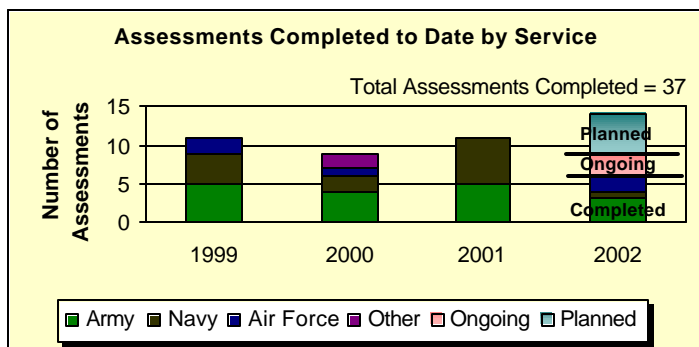# Update – September 02

Note from the Manager…

We've accomplished much for DoD PMs and Executive Sponsors since our inception in 1998. This update highlights events for this quarter as well as prior key events. As a result of TAI's success and growth and my expanded role within the OUSD(AT&L) Software Intensive Systems Office, we have hired Mr. Scott Lucero, from Army ATEC, as the new TAI Manager. My TAI role now shifts to Strategic Directorship while Scott becomes the day-to-day manager of the assessments. Our goal remains clear: provide direct assistance to DoD PMs and improve the acquisition of DoD software intensive systems. *Kristen Baldwin*

Assessment Profile

Since inception in 1998, TAI has conducted 37 assessments that span programs across the ACAT levels, through a wide variety of domain areas and lifecycle phases. TAI is currently within 80% of its annual assessment goal. Assessment activity is shown below.

Assessments Completed to Date by Service

Total Assessments Completed = 37

Number of Assessments (15, 10, 5, 0)

Planned / Ongoing / Completed

1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002

Legend: ▣ Army ▣ Navy ▣ Air Force ▣ Other ▢ Ongoing ▢ Planned

Customer Satisfaction

TAI's post-assessment surveys measure PMs satisfaction with the assessment process and usefulness of the assessment recommendations. PMs are in agreement that the assessments are effective and beneficial.

✓ 84% of customer survey responses are in the Very Good to Excellent range.

Recent assessment customer comments…

"No direct cost to the program… TAI was able to accomplish a great deal in a very short time span with minimum disruption on contractor personnel." Program Manager

News

✓ Presented first public release of TAI's phase I Systemic Analysis results at the 2002 Software Technology Conference.

✓ Hon. Claude Bolton, AAE, endorsed TAI and the use of Independent Expert Program Reviews (IEPRs) and agreed to promote assessments across the Army acquisition community

✓ Conducted full-day session at the 2002 DoD Program Manager's Workshop. TAI validated the use of independent assessments, discussed their implementation, and extracted the PM audience views on the systemic issues that impact programs.

✓ Presented lecture at the May 02 DAU PM Refresher Course on TAI's systemic findings. The presentation was well received with discussion on software and system issues.

✓ Met with ASD(C3I) DASD for Programs, Mr. John Landon, who agreed to promote use of TAI assessments within his oversight responsibility and take advantage of lessons learned to improve acquisition success.

How can you help?

• Continue endorsing/promoting IEPRs and TAI
• Support your expert personnel participating on our teams
• Give us your ideas on ways to increase TAI awareness

TAI Systemic Analysis (SA)

TAI analyzes and identifies the technical and management issues, risks and problems that seem to recur across its base of assessed programs. Through its analysis of these "systemic issues" TAI strives to understand the underlying causes of DoD software acquisition problems so that they may be avoided or their effects minimized in current or future DoD software intensive acquisition programs.

The SA work to date indicates that there exist a significant number of "cause and effects" patterns that are continuously repeated. For example, TAI had found in many programs multiple policies imposed on the programs cause nearly mutually exclusive technical objectives to be pursued. The Phase I SA results show several prospective recurring patterns to include: interoperability clashes, ineffective systems engineering, premature system operations, and disconnected education and training.

TAI's SA is entering its second phase of work. Assessment information has been captured in a database that provides an efficient means for identifying the trends and patterns that occur across multiple programs. TAI currently a capability to quantify the identified systemic patterns and relate their occurrences to different program characteristics and acquisition considerations, such as program type, service, lifecycle phase, etc.

Status this quarter: TAI's SA Team has completed development of the baseline tool and is analyzing the emerging issue patterns and trends. The SA Team will publish their results in the TAI Systemic Analysis Report (Nov 02)

Partnerships & Collaboration

• We are currently establishing MOUs with SEI, STSC and MITRE wherein these organizations will be able to use the TAI assessment method for their assessment customers, and TAI will provide support. This will promote consistency across assessments and allow systemic analysis across a single DoD data set.

• We are partnering with the Missile Defense Agency, who plans to conduct TAI assessments on all their Ballistic Missile Defense System elements as part of their system test process.

• By collaborating and aligning with CeBASE and PSM, TAI seeks to effectively transition the application of foundational risk management principles to program decision makers.

For any further information or questions please contact us:

Kristen Baldwin: kristen.baldwin@osd.mil, 703-602-0851 x109
Scott Lucero: scott.lucero@osd.mil, 703-602-0851 x114